

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9733

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5027

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: ELIMINATION OF OPIUM PRODUCTION

REF: A) STATE 119929

B) ISLAMABAD 4910

1. CHARGE ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF PRESENTED DIPLOMATIC NOTE CONTAINING PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR ELIMINATION OF POPPY PRODUCTION TO AKRAM ZAKI, MFA DIRGEN FOR AMERICAS, JUNE 20. IN OUTLINING PROPOSAL, CHARGE REFERRED TO PRES. NIXON'S DEEP INTEREST IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND NUMBER OF POSITIVE DISCUSSIONS CHARGE HAD HELD WITH PRES. BHOTTO ON THIS SUBJECT OVER PAST 16 MONTHS. CHARGE EMPHASIZED USG HOPE THAT GOP ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION ON TIMETABLE COULD BE MADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH BHUTTO VISIT TO US, AND THAT CURRENT PROPOSAL WOULD THEREFORE REQUIRE VERY EARLY ACTION. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD CALL FOR GOP DECISION AT HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL.

2. ZAKI UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY PROPOSAL SOONEST TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE NOTED THAT IN PREPARING PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF MAJOR SPEECH WHICH BHUTTO WOULD DELIVER IN US HE HAD INCLUDED STRONG STATEMENT ON NARCOTICS. CHARGE NOTED HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT IF PRES. BHUTTO MADE STATEMENT ALONG LINES PROPOSED IN OUR NOTE, THIS WOULD BE VERY FAVORABLY RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON.

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3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED) OF
EMBASSY NOTE:

" EMBASSY PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO MINISTRY
AND HAS HONOR TO REFER TO REPORT OF US NARCOTICS TEAM
WHICH VISITED PAKISTAN IN JANUARY 1973 AND TO RECENT
DISCUSSIONS ON NARCOTICS BETWEEN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES
AND OFFICIALS OF PLANNING COMMISSION AND PAKISTAN
NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD. IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECOMMENDA-
TION OF US TEAM, WHICH HAS FULL BACKING OF USG, EMBASSY
WISHES TO PROPOSE THAT GOP TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO TERMINATE
ALL POPPY PRODUCTION IN PESHAWAR DIVISION OF NWFP AS
FROM END OF 1973 OPIUM HARVEST NOW COMPLETED. IT IS
FURTHER PROPOSED THAT EXCISE LAWS GOVERNING OPIUM
PRODUCTION BE EXTENDED TO MALAKAND DIVISION DURING
COURSE OF 1973 AND THAT BAN ON PRODUCTION IN DIVISION
BE MADE EFFECTIVE FOLLOWING 1975 HARVEST. FINALLY
EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKE TO IMPOSE
BAN ON PRODUCTION IN CENTRALLY- ADMINISTERED TRIBAL
AREAS OF PAKISTAN TO BECOME EFFECTIVE BY 1977.

" USG IS PREPARED TO AID NARCOTICS CONTROL
EFFORTS OF GOP BY ASSISTING IN EQUIPPING MUTUALLY
AGREED NUMBER OF NARCOTICS STRIKE SQUADS (FIELD
INVESTIGATIVE UNITS) WHICH ARE TO BE FORMED BY
NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD. IN ADDITION, USG WILL
CONSULT WITH GOP AUTHORITIES ON UTILIZATION OF
AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO FACILITATE ENDING OF
OPIUM PRODUCTION IN PAKISTAN.

" EMBASSY URGES THAT DECISION ON ABOVE TIME-
TABLE FOR ELIMINATING OPIUM PRODUCTION BE TAKEN AT
VERY EARLY DATE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS HOPED
THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THAT DECISION CAN BE MADE AT
OR NEAR TIME OF PRESIDENT BHUTTO' S FORTHCOMING VISIT
TO US.

" EMBASSY AVAILS ITSELF (ETC.)"
SOBER

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